

a plurality of annular elements,
the stent having a tapered configuration in the expanded state with the diameter of
the stent continuously increasing from a first diameter at the first end to a second
greater diameter at the second end;
wherein the first and second ends have different degrees of flexibility.

40.(New) The stent of claim 39, wherein each annular element comprises a plurality of
alternating struts and apices connected to each other to form a substantially
annular configuration, and wherein the stent further includes connecting members
that are connected to the apices of the adjacent annular members.

41.(New) The stent of claim 40 wherein all the struts in the stent have the same length in the
expanded state.--

REMARKS

The specification has been amended on page 1 to indicate that this application is a
continuation of US Patent Application number 09/574,077 which is a continuation of US Patent
Application number 08/845,734 which is a continuation-in-part of US Patent Application number
08/824,142, and a continuation-in-part of US Patent Application number 08/824,866 and a
continuation-in-part of US Patent Application number 08/824,865 and is a continuation-on-part
of US Patent Application number 08/845,657. The specification has also been amended to recite
that this application claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application No. 60/017,484 filed
April 26, 1996, through the chain of priority.

Claims 1-33, the subject of prosecution of the parent application, have been
canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New claims 34-41 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found in
the specification on page 15, lines 4-32. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.607(c), Applicant notes that many of the above claims correspond substantially to claims from US 6,106,548 to Roubin et. al. (Roubin), issued August 22, 2000. A table indicating the correspondence is provided below.

<u>Claim in instant application</u>	<u>Claim in Roubin</u>
34	8
35	12;
36	12;
37-39	8;
40-41	12;

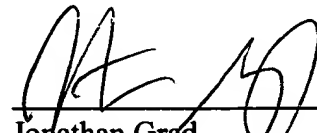
Applicant notes, however, that the correspondence identified above is not intended to constitute a statement that the scope of the claims is identical.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Amendments:

In the Specification:

On page 1, lines 2-12 have been deleted and replaced with the following text:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application number 09/574,077 which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application number 08/845,734 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application number 08/824,142, and a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application number 08/824,866 and a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application number 08/824,865 and is a continuation-on-part of U.S. Patent Application number 08/845,657 all of which are incorporated herein by reference. This application claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application No. 60/017,484 filed April 26, 1996, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference --

In the Claims

Claims 1-33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New claims 34-41 have been added as follows:

- 34.(New) A stent having a first end, an opposing second end, and a longitudinal length, the stent having a diameter throughout its length and comprising:
- a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state; and
- at least a portion of the stent having a tapered configuration in the expanded state; wherein the first and second ends have different degrees of flexibility.
- 35.(New) The stent of claim 34, wherein each annular element comprises a plurality of alternating struts and apices connected to each other to form a substantially annular configuration, and wherein the stent further includes connecting members that are connected to the apices of the adjacent annular members.
- 36.(New) The stent of claim 35 wherein all the struts in the stent have the same length in the expanded state.
- 37.(New) The stent of claim 34 wherein the diameter of the stent increases from a first diameter at the first end to a second greater diameter at the second end.
- 38.(New) The stent of claim 34 wherein the diameter of the stent continuously increases from a first diameter at the first end to a second greater diameter at the second end.

39.(New) A stent having an unexpanded state and an expanded state, the stent having a first end, an opposing second end, and a longitudinal length, the stent having a diameter throughout its length and comprising:

a plurality of annular elements,

the stent having a tapered configuration in the expanded state with the diameter of the stent continuously increasing from a first diameter at the first end to a second greater diameter at the second end;

wherein the first and second ends have different degrees of flexibility.

40.(New) The stent of claim 39, wherein each annular element comprises a plurality of alternating struts and apices connected to each other to form a substantially annular configuration, and wherein the stent further includes connecting members that are connected to the apices of the adjacent annular members.

41.(New) The stent of claim 40 wherein all the struts in the stent have the same length in the expanded state.

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